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reflects great credit upon the gentlemen under whose supervision the paper was printed, that without the opportunity of revision by the author, and from manuscript closely written on both sides of thin paper, as we incidentally learn, so very few errors should have occurred.

BIRDS OF KANSAS.*—The present list, “though based upon the personal observations of the author during a residence of six years in Kansas,” does not purport to be a complete catalogue of the birds of that State. It embraces the names of two hundred and thirty-nine species, and contains short notes respecting the relative abundance and special haunts of most of them. Whilst of considerable value as a faunal list, it abounds in errors to such an extent as greatly to impair its usefulness. Among the one hundred species marked with an asterisk to show that they are “known to breed in Kansas” we find *Regulus calendula*, *Dendroica coronata*, *Pinicola* “*canadensis*,” *Passerella iliaca*, and *Ægialitis semipalmatus*, whose southern limit in the breeding season is well known to be many hundred miles north of Kansas. On the other hand such characteristic and abundant summer species as *Calamospiza bicolor* and *Coturniculus passerinus*, and nearly twenty others now well known to breed in Kansas, are without the asterisk. Among the species one naturally expects to see in a list of the pretensions of the present, we look in vain for *Dendroica cærulea*, *Vireo noveboracensis*, *Plectrophanes ornatus*, *P. Maccownii*, *Guiraca melanocephala*, *Spizella pallida*, *Peuceea* “*Cassinii*,” *Antrostomus Nuttalli*, *Pediæcetes phasianellus* and *Ægialitis montanus*, all of which are more or less common, whilst some of them are among the most characteristic species of the middle and western portions of the state. Among the western species mentioned are *Falco polyagrus*, *Colaptes* “*hybridus*,” *Poospiza bilineata*, *Passerella schistacea*, *Junco Oregonus*, *Icterus Bullockii*, and *Centrocercus urophasianus*, all of which may occur of course as stragglers, though not often seen in the latitude of Kansas, east of the Rocky Mountains. Perhaps for *Centrocercus urophasianus* the writer meant to have written *Pediæcetes phasianellus*, and for *Ægi-*

15, for EURYTHAME read EURYTHEME; p. 45, line 31, for *Calvertyi* read *Calverleyi*; p. 49, l. 2, for *Epay. Pityrus* read *Epar. Tityrus*; p. 50, l. 25, for THRASS read THRASO; p. 50, l. 12, for *Endamus* read *Eudamus*; p. 59, l. 15, for *Palatka* read *Pilatka*; p. 62, l. 2, for EUDRYAS read EUDAMUS; p. 62, l. 9, for *Buleuta* read *Bulenta*.

* Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas. By Frank H. Snow. Professor of Natural History and Meteorology in the University of Kansas, Topeka, 1872. pp. 8.

alitis semipalmatus, *Æ. montanus*, both of which species, as already noticed, are omitted from the list, though it is hard to suppose that in either case he could have mistaken the one bird for the other.

While faunal lists of the birds of the western states and territories are so very desirable, they more than defeat their usefulness unless prepared with a considerable degree of accuracy. If the writer of the present list had restricted it to a smaller locality, say for instance a single county, and had added from his note books more explicit data, especially in respect to the times of arrival and departure of the birds, his catalogue would have had far more value as a faunal record, and would doubtless have been as a whole much more accurate.—J. A. A.

NEWTON'S ORNITHOLOGICAL REGISTER.*—The pamphlet before us is a description of a Record of Ornithological Observations made by Messrs. A. and E. Newton for the years 1850-'59. Great advantage flows from a continuous series of such observations in any department of Natural History, and the system devised and perfected for this purpose seems to us very praiseworthy. It is difficult to gain an idea of this unique register without inspection of an accompanying lithographic sheet representing a month's record in *fac-simile*; but it will suffice to say that the record is kept almost entirely by means of a few simple but expressive symbols, the use and purport of which may be readily learned. By these signs a day's observations may be duly recorded in a few moments, and the system recommends itself for this if for no other reason. Prof. Newton says that the benefits accruing were "out of all proportion" to the time and trouble bestowed; and not the least of these, was the enforcing of a habit of close daily observation, essential to the culture of practical ornithology. Many extremely valuable, and some novel, facts were ascertained respecting the movements, the pairing, nesting, singing of birds, and their general habits. It was unexpectedly discovered, among other things, that the meteorological observations made in the hope that one set of observations might throw light on the other, gave negative results, no birds proving reliable weather-prophets. We should judge that the digestion of the great mass of material accumulated in this

*On a Method of Registering Natural History Observations. By Alfred Newton. From the Norfolk and Norwich Society's Proceedings, 1870.